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MAY 17 2009

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all claims in the instant application with the listing below amending claims 1, 7, 25, 29, 31, 34, 35-36 as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:  
2  
3 a plurality of core fibers forming [a] said lifting sling body; [~~said sling body is~~  
4 ~~load bearing; and~~]  
5  
6 a coating [~~said coating is~~] comprised of at least an isocyanate mixed with an  
7 amine forming polyurea; [~~said coating is sprayed onto said plurality of core~~  
8 ~~fibers, said coating is applied in patterns of varying thicknesses and locations~~  
9 ~~along length of said sling body;~~]  
10  
11 said coating further comprising:  
12  
13 an initial layer of said coating that seals said plurality of core fibers from  
14 exposure to contaminants; [~~;~~]  
15  
16 a plurality of additional layers [~~of said coating are~~] applied to [~~in~~] areas of  
17 said lifting sling body subject to high crush and shear forces; and  
18 [~~increasing said coating thickness and shear strength, preventing said~~  
19 ~~plurality of core fibers and said coating damage during use of said lifting~~  
20 ~~sling, and achieving operational properties that extend suitability for use of~~  
21 ~~said coating and said plurality of core fibers;~~]  
22

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23 a final splatter layer of said coating [~~is~~] applied along said lifting sling  
24 body, said final splatter layer creating a rugged textured non-slip grip  
25 exterior surface.

26

1 2. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 coating is selected from the group consisting of a polyurea elastomer, or a hybrid  
3 polyurethane – polyurea elastomer.

4

1 3. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 coating has an operational temperature range of -40 to 175 degrees Celsius.

3

1 4. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 coating has a tensile strength in the range of up to 6,500 pounds per square inch, an  
3 elongation range of up to 300 percent, and a tear resistance in the range of up to 600  
4 pounds per linear inch.

5

1 5. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 coating includes at least one of the following additives:

3

- 4 i) a catalyst;  
5 ii) a stabilizer;  
6 iii) a pigment;  
7 iv) a fire retardant;  
8 v) a static electricity reducing additive;  
9 vi) an ultraviolet filtering additive; or  
10 vii) a thermal cycling additive.

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1 6. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 plurality of core fibers include at least one of the following:

3

- 4 i) nylon;
- 5 ii) polyester;
- 6 iii) a synthetic fiber;
- 7 iv) polypropylene;
- 8 v) wire rope;
- 9 vi) steel core;
- 10 vii) cordage rope;
- 11 viii) yarn;
- 12 ix) NOMAX;
- 13 x) KEVLAR; or
- 14 xi) chain.

15

1 7. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lifting  
2 sling further comprising a safety core~~[, said safety core is]~~ bonded by said coating  
3 proximate to said plurality of core fibers, ends of said safety core are concealed within  
4 said coating. ~~[causing said safety core, said coating, and said plurality of core fibers to be~~  
5 ~~subjected to the same operational forces during use of said lifting sling.]~~

6

1 8. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety  
2 core traverses said lifting sling.

3

1 9. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety  
2 core is located, with respect to said plurality of core fibers, in at least one of the following  
3 locations:

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4

5

i) seam located;

6

ii) perimeter located; or

7

iii) centrally located.

8

1

10. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety core is interconnected with at least one of the following:

3

4

i) an indicator; or

5

ii) an electronic system.

6

1

11-15. (Canceled)

2

1

16. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lifting sling further comprising at least one of the following:

3

4

i) an indicator secured proximate to said plurality of core fibers; or

5

ii) an electronic system secured proximate to said plurality of core fibers.

6

1

17. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 16, wherein said electronic system further comprising at least one of the following:

3

4

i) a microcontroller;

5

ii) a graphical user interface;

6

iii) a keypad;

7

iv) a touch pad;

8

v) a plurality of general purpose inputs and outputs;

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- 9 vi) a safety core interface;
- 10 vii) a lifting sling measurement and dynamics interface;
- 11 viii) an RFID interface;
- 12 ix) an IRDA interface;
- 13 x) a transceiver;
- 14 xi) a wireless data link;
- 15 xii) a LAN interface;
- 16 xiii) a WAN interface;
- 17 xiv) a serial data link;
- 18 xv) a GPS interface;
- 19 xvi) a power supply;
- 20 xvii) a flash memory;
- 21 xviii) a read only memory;
- 22 xix) a real time clock;
- 23 xx) an EEROM; or
- 24 xxi) a NOVRAM.

25

1 18. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 16, wherein said  
2 indicator or said electronic system indicates operational condition of said lifting sling,  
3 suitability for use of said lifting sling, or security status of an article secured by said  
4 lifting sling.

5

1 19-24 (Canceled)

2

1 25. (Currently Amended) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

2

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3 a plurality of core fibers forming [a] said lifting sling body; [~~-, said sling body is~~  
4 ~~load bearing;~~]

5

6 a coating [~~-, said coating is~~] comprised of at least an isocyanate mixed with an  
7 amine forming polyurea; [~~-, said coating is disposed onto said plurality of core~~  
8 ~~fibers, said coating is applied in patterns of varying thicknesses and locations~~  
9 ~~along length of said sling body;~~]

10

11 an electronic system secured by said coating proximate to said plurality of core  
12 fibers;

13

14 said coating further comprising:

15

16 an initial layer of said coating that seals said plurality of core fibers from  
17 exposure to contaminants; [;]

18

19 a plurality of additional layers [~~of said coating are~~] applied to [~~in~~] areas of  
20 said lifting sling body subject to high crush and shear forces; and  
21 [~~increasing said coating thickness and shear strength, preventing said~~  
22 ~~plurality of core fibers and said coating damage during use of said lifting~~  
23 ~~sling, and achieving operational properties that extend suitability for use of~~  
24 ~~said coating and said plurality of core fibers;~~]

25

26 a final splatter layer of said coating [~~is~~] applied along said lifting sling  
27 body, said final splatter layer creating a rugged textured non-slip grip  
28 exterior surface, [~~-, said coating thicknesses and locations along length of~~

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29 ~~said sling body are selected based in part on operating conditions of said~~  
30 ~~lifting sling; and~~

31

32 ~~an electronic system secured by said coating proximate to said plurality of core~~  
33 ~~fibers, wherein by way of said electronic system said lifting sling data~~  
34 ~~communicates with a plurality of data processing devices or a plurality of global~~  
35 ~~network based data processing resources;]~~

36

1 26. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further  
2 comprising a cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core fibers, said cover  
3 is coated with said coating.

4

1 27. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further  
2 comprising a cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core fibers, said cover  
3 is coated and secured into position with said coating.

4

1 28. (Canceled)

2

1 29. (Currently Amended) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

2

3 a plurality of core fibers forming a]said lifting sling body; ~~[-said sling body is~~  
4 ~~load bearing; and]~~

5

6 a coating~~[-said coating material is]~~ comprised of at least an isocyanate mixed with  
7 an amine forming polyurea; ~~[-said coating is disposed onto said plurality of core~~  
8 ~~fibers, said coating is applied in patterns of varying thicknesses and locations~~  
9 ~~along length of said sling body;]~~

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10

11 said lifting sling further comprising at least one of the following:

12

- 13 i) an indicator secured by said coating proximate to said plurality of  
14 core fibers; or  
15 ii) an electronic system secured by said coating proximate to said  
16 plurality of core fibers;

17

18 said coating further comprising:

19

20 an initial layer of said coating that seals said plurality of core fibers from  
21 exposure to contaminants;[,]

22

23 a plurality of additional layers [of said coating are] applied in areas of said  
24 lifting sling body subject to high crush and shear forces; and [increasing-  
25 said coating thickness and shear strength, preventing said plurality of core-  
26 fibers and said coating damage during use of said lifting sling, and  
27 achieving operational properties that extend suitability for use of said  
28 coating and said plurality of core fibers,]

29

30 a final splatter layer of said coating [is] applied along said lifting sling  
31 body, said final splatter layer creating a rugged textured non-slip grip  
32 exterior surface; [, said coating thicknesses and locations along length of  
33 said sling body are selected based in part on operating conditions of said  
34 lifting sling;

35

36 said lifting sling further comprising at least one of the following:

37



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38                    ~~i) an indicator secured by said coating proximate to said plurality of core~~  
39                    ~~fibers; or~~  
40                    ~~ii) an electronic system secured by said coating proximate to said plurality~~  
41                    ~~of core fibers;]~~

42

43                    wherein said indicator or said electronic system indicates operational condition of  
44                    said lifting sling, suitability for use of said lifting sling, or security status of an  
45                    article secured by said lifting sling.

46

1    30. (Canceled)

2

1    31. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 29, wherein said  
2    lifting sling further comprising a safety core~~[-said safety core is]~~ bonded by said coating  
3    proximate to said plurality of core fibers, ends of said safety core are concealed within  
4    said coating. ~~[causing said safety core, said coating, and said plurality of core fibers to be~~  
5    ~~subjected to the same operational forces during use of said lifting sling.]~~

6

1    32. (Canceled)

2

1    33. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, further  
2    comprising a cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core fibers, said cover  
3    is coated with said coating.

4

1    34. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein single-  
2    core said lifting sling body is formed by full seaming said plurality of core fibers with  
3    said coating and multi-core said lifting sling body is formed by partial seaming said  
4    plurality of core fibers with said coating.

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1 35. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, wherein single-  
2 core said lifting sling body is formed by full seaming said plurality of core fibers with  
3 said coating and multi-core said lifting sling body is formed by partial seaming said  
4 plurality of core fibers with said coating.  
5

1 36. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 29, wherein single-  
2 core said lifting sling body is formed by full seaming said plurality of core fibers with  
3 said coating and multi-core said lifting sling body is formed by partial seaming said  
4 plurality of core fibers with said coating.  
5

1 37. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, further  
2 comprising a cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core fibers, said cover  
3 is coated and secured into position with said coating.  
4

1 38. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 29, further  
2 comprising a cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core fibers, said cover  
3 is coated with said coating.  
4